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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED WITH THANKS.—Mr. Humfress; Ella (2); Mr. J. Groom; T. J. B.; Messrs. Yates & Co.; B. A.; Mr. R. Howard; Messrs. Marlborough & Co.

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*** Earl Russell communicated to the College of Physicians that he had received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Manilla, to the effect that Cholera has been raging fearfully, and that the ONLY remedy of any service was CHLORODYNE."—See *Lancet*, 1st December, 1864.

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ARTHUR J. S. MADDISON, *Secretary.*

SPECIAL MEETINGS

OF THE

WORKERS IN RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union have arranged for the holding of Special Meetings in London of the general body of Teachers and Officers in Ragged Schools, who are hereby invited to attend. To facilitate the attendance of large numbers a Meeting will be held in each of the four districts in London, viz. :—

EAST.—On Wednesday, March 4, 1874,
Girls' Refuge, Albert Street, Spitalfields.

WEST.—On Friday, March 6th,
Ragged School, Ogle Mews, Foley Street.

NORTH.—On Thursday, March 12th,
Ragged School, Morton Road, Essex Road, Islington.

SOUTH.—On Thursday, March 19th,
Ragged School, Jurston Street, Oakley Street, Lambeth.

Tea and Coffee from 5.45 *to* 6.45 *p.m. The Chair to be taken at* 7 *o'clock.*

The subject for consideration at each Meeting will be

The Mission Work in Ragged Schools, and How to Promote it.

To be introduced by Members of the Parent Committee, and then open for general discussion.

LORD SHAFTESBURY hopes to be able to attend.

Tickets of admission have been sent to the Schools for the Teachers and Officers, and should more be required they can be had on appiication at the Office, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

JOSEPH G. GENT, *Secretary.*

Friendless and Fallen.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Census of Cases taken on the 31st December, 1873, showing the relative condition and locality of Birthplace of every inmate then under the care of this Institution.

Total No. of Inmates in the Home 31st December, 1873,		**155.**
No. of entire orphans	74	
No. fatherless	18	
No. motherless	28	
No. with both parents living	35	
Total		155
No. having accessible homes	38	
No. not having accessible homes	117	
Total		155

BIRTHPLACES OF THE ABOVE.

London—Bermondsey, Bethnal Green, Bloomsbury, Brixton, Chelsea, City, Clerkenwell, Deptford, Fulham, Islington, Kennington, Kensington, Kentish Town, Kingsland, Lambeth, Marylebone, Pimlico, Poplar; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Clement's, Strand; St. George's-in-the-East; St. Luke's, E.C.; St. Pancras, Southwark, Walworth, Wandsworth, Westminster, Whitechapel.

Country—Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Devonshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Somersetshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, Calcutta, Ireland, Scotland, Wales.

SUMMARY.

To Open-all-Night Refuge, 891 admitted in 1873.

To Preventive Homes, 112 ditto.

To Reformatory Homes, 304 ditto.

Income, 1872, £5,924; income, 1873, £5,614; decrease, 1873, £310.

Increased expenses of Homes in 1873, £232.

£12 10s. (Donation of) will sustain all the Homes one day.

Reader, Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C., and Francis Nicholls, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., will thankfully receive CONTRIBUTIONS; or

EDWARD W. THOMAS, Secretary,
200, Euston Road, N.W.

OUR MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

THOUGH the primary object of Ragged Schools was to reclaim the children of the streets, yet from almost the commencement of the movement the claims of the adult poor were not overlooked. That this was no after-thought, the fundamental rules of the Ragged School Union fully prove. Thus the fourth rule of the Central Society states that one of its objects was to "assist the *old* as well as the young in the studying of the Word of God."

In many ways this object has been carried out, from the Adult Bible Class to the Ragged Church. But by no plan has their claims, as well social as religious, been so well met as by those Mothers' Meetings which are now attached to nearly a moiety of the affiliated schools.

The number of Mothers' Meetings reported to the Central Society last year was 75. The united membership was 2,706. These are usually held once a week, in the afternoon or evening; but six gatherings—including 340 members—are so popular that they meet twice weekly. They are usually presided over by one lady, who reads some book on the management of the household while the mothers work; and another lady—or in some cases a Bible-woman—superintends the needlework. These meetings invariably commence with prayer, praise, and Scripture-reading. And the bulk close with an address, in which home-piety is made to spring from loyalty to Christ.

As every Ragged School district has its distinctive feature, so the elements of our Mothers' Meetings much vary. But the bulk consist of charwomen, laundresses, fish-hawkers, and widows innumerable. There are also large numbers of the wives of that undefinable class who call themselves "labourers;" in other words, men who have no regular employment, but seek for odd jobs at Billingsgate or in the docks. Many of the women come baby in arm; which much adds to the interest, if it occasionally detracts somewhat from the quiet of the gathering. But most of the babies look so clean and tidy, and many "crow" so cheerfully, that they give a home-look to the meeting, and thus form a prominent feature in this pleasant picture.

Whilst very much is done by Bible reading and exposition to

win these poor women for Jesus, yet their social needs are not disregarded. Thus to most, Clothing Clubs are attached; the materials which are made up at the meeting being bought at wholesale and sold at a price below that usually charged by the retail shops. But in a large number twopence in the shilling is added to every article bought. But, however sold, the pauper spirit is checked, as the purchaser pays the greater part of the original cost of the article bought.

In some cases "Maternity Societies," to aid poor mothers in their hour of greatest need, form an important feature in our Mothers' Meetings. One of the pioneer Ragged Schools has adopted this plan for about twenty years, to the great benefit of a very needy class. Last year, for example, twenty-four mothers were supplied with baby-linen and fitting nourishment, and a small sum was given weekly till they were fit for household duties. The following cases—certified by the visitor—will show how much this aid was needed:—Mrs. W., six in family. Living in one room. Father a gilder, out of work nearly the whole of the winter. Mother confined when the weather was piercingly cold. No fire during the four visits. Twice they were found without a morsel of firing in the grate, the babe being washed in the cold room with cold water. Firing was given to this family after this for four weeks, besides food to keep them alive.—Mrs. M., four in family. Was confined in a kitchen, much more like a cellar than a room, the water running down the walls. There was no fire, in consequence of which she took a severe cold. This case was helped as far as possible. The mother recovered, but the baby died. The husband was a tinker in the streets, and seldom brought home more than sixpence or a shilling a day.—Mrs. N., five in family, living in one room. The husband was a labourer; ill with rheumatics so long that she had been compelled to part with all that would fetch a shilling. This poor woman was confined in the night, and was obliged to put the baby in a piece of sheet till she could obtain the bag of linen next morning; but was mercifully preserved as well as her child.

It is pleasing to know that the labour entailed on the managers of our Mothers' Meetings has not been in vain. When indeed was Christian kindness—in other words, womanly sympathy, not icy patronage—ever thrown away? Many of these weekly gatherings of poor mothers have we seen at work, and it needed

no great penetration to discern how hope had been evoked in the most desponding, and how true gratitude marked every look and word. Nor is this all; there are few Mothers' Meetings which cannot report cases of conversion; some indeed of a most remarkable character. And even when this has not been the case, there are few Mothers' Meetings which have not added their quota to the connected Ragged Church, or to adjacent places of worship.

Need we add that the changed habits of the wives have had a reflex influence on their husbands and children? The great practical aim of the conductors has been to lead the members to "show piety at *home*." Thus instead of a slatternly, gossiping wife, such as drove too many hard-working men to the pot-house for warmth and solace, they have found a tidy woman in an equally tidy kitchen, and were thus led to sing from the heart, "There's no place like home!" So also the children, instead of late attendance, have become as regular as clockwork in their arrival at school; and their clean shiny faces showed that, however mean their apparel, their poor mothers felt that dirt and rags are not a necessary result of poverty.

Other pleasing results might be adduced to show how much our Mothers' Meetings have done to elevate our poor sisters. If, then, Ragged Schools had been restricted to poor women and adults—had, instead of forming a subsidiary, been a primary object of that movement—we think that they would have achieved such a goodly social work as must extort the applause of even those who bow the knee to the idol of Secularism.

It is in these social and religious aspects that Ragged Schools will continue to be needed; until at last the prayer taught by our Divine Master is fully answered, "Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven." For our distinct mission is to the poor and the fallen—classes which no School Board can touch; and which Government, however much it may forcibly keep from social outbreak, can never reclaim. But given Ragged Schools for children, and Ragged Churches and Parents' Meetings for adults, we have all the agencies needful to give hope to the hopeless, and to snatch out of the gutter those who now wallow in its filth. In this way, society at large is deeply indebted to Ragged Schools; for we may be sure that no one will so well do his duty to man as he who has learnt his duty to God.

MISSION WORK IN RAGGED SCHOOLS.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee held on February 13th, it was resolved to convene the teachers of all the schools connected with the Ragged School Union to a Conference. The subject selected is "Mission Work in Ragged Schools, and how to promote it."

As there are about 3,000 teachers in the London Ragged Schools, it is impossible to invite them to one meeting. Hence they will be assembled in the four sections into which London has been divided. The eastern division will meet at Albert Street, Mile End, on March 4th. The western teachers will assemble at Ogle Mews, Portland Road, on March 6th. The northern division will meet at Morton Road, Islington, on March 11th; and the southern section at Jurston Street, New Cut, on March 17th. The subject for discussion will be introduced in each division by a member of the Committee of the Central Society.

These Conferences, it is hoped, will tend not only to strengthen the various religious operations already conducted in Ragged Schools, but to stimulate our workers to increased and still more earnest aggressive movements against the sin and misery of this great city.

GROTTO PASSAGE RAGGED SCHOOL, MARYLEBONE.

This is one of the oldest institutions affiliated to the Ragged School Union. Planted as it is in the very heart of a district where Cockney Irish, with all their indescribable squalor and superstition, abound, we know no spot where a Ragged School is more required. We are glad, then, to find that it shows no signs of that decrepitude which is usually consequent on age, for rather never was the missionary work conducted with greater vigour, and never was the work of the Holy Spirit more manifest.

From the outset this school has embraced two objects—namely, first, by Sunday, Day, and Night Schools, to prevent the development of vicious habits; and, second, by the establishment of a Home for homeless lads, to save those who from the evils incident to street life were likely to lead a life of crime.

The Sunday School meets in the afternoon and evening. About 150 belong to the Sunday Evening School, and are taught by an earnest band of teachers, some of whom belong to the large millinery or linendrapers' firms in Oxford Street and Regent Street.

The Day and Night Schools attract 130 scholars, under an experienced teacher, aided by ladies who take the reading and Bible lessons.

There are also a flourishing Penny Bank and Clothing Club; and a Mothers' Meeting has just started on its career of usefulness, under the management of Mrs. Denham Smith.

One of the most interesting departments is the Boys' Refuge, which is under the superintendence of the Hon. Miss Waldegrave. Last year 70 homeless or vagrant lads were inmates of this Refuge. Of these 14 entered the army, navy, or mercantile service; 23 obtained permanent situations; 11 absconded; 3 prodigals were returned to their parents; and 2 converted lads died. This left the number of 17 at the close of 1873.

Two or three cases, whilst they show the past history of some of these boys, will illustrate some of the good effected in innumerable cases.

Bill M——, a Scotch lad, arrived late one autumn day and applied for admittance, which was instantly given. He was an orphan and had no friends in the world. He had tramped from Scotland in a sad state of distress, seeking work, but was soon found to be in the last stage of consumption, and he had to be removed to the infirmary, where he was visited to the very last. Just before his dying hour he said, "Thank God for the Grotto Home, and the kind friends that took me in. I just went there to learn about Jesus, and then to die. Tell that good committee gentleman that spoke to me there that I love Jesus; that I have no fear; that I trust in Jesus, and am happy. If I had not been taken into the Grotto I should have thrown myself into the river, for every one else turned away from me in my sickness and distress." Soon after this he entered the very presence of Jesus.

Bill W——, a friendless orphan, tramped from Gloucestershire, in hopes of "finding a living." On knocking at the door of a large house, he was sent to the Grotto. Whilst he, through the means of an earnest guardsman, became a true soldier of Christ, and afterwards of his country also. He is now a lance-corporal (the youngest in his regiment), and has a good-conduct stripe. Being a short time ago in the neighbourhood of L—— Park, he was asked over there to spend his furlough, and it was afterwards found that he had, by his earnest conversation and example, been the means of deep impression on the people at whose house he had been sent to lodge.

M——, once a poor wandering fusee-seller, came to the Grotto not only to find a home, but to be led there to the "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." He afterwards won a high character in the situation where he was placed. He worked well and hard, but it was too much for his injured health, and he gradually

sank. But as his body wasted away, his spirit grew brighter and brighter. At last he said, with the brightest smile, "I shall soon see Him. He's been such a friend to me." Many tears were shed by his mates as they followed his earthly remains, "for," said they, "we was all so fond of poor M——."

Other cases of encouragement might be mentioned. Thus, for example, a short time ago the managers had an especially trying week, but before the end of it they met five in succession of whom they had lost sight for some little time. The first came to spend his birthday at the Grotto, with a ten years' character in his pocket, and still at the same place. The second came with the highest testimonials from his employer to apply for a place as master of an institution for destitute boys. The same afternoon our honorary superintendent received a letter from an old "Grotto" boy, inviting him to an annual meeting of a Sunday School of which he was president.

Thus have the managers and teachers of Grotto Passage successfully answered the question of Mrs. Browning, the sister of one of the former voluntary teachers in this Ragged School:—

"Do you hear the children weeping, O my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?
They are weeping in the play-time of the others—
In the country of the free.
And well may children weep before you,
They are weary ere they run;
They have never seen the sunshine, nor that glory
Which is brighter than the sun.
They know the grief of man,—without his wisdom;
They sink in man's despair,—without his calm;
They are slaves,—without the liberty in Christendom;
They are martyrs, by the pang without the palm;
They are worn, as if with age, yet unrelievingly—
The blessings of its memory cannot keep;
They are orphans of the earthly love and heavenly—
They weep—*shall we let them weep?*"

DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S DINNERS SOCIETY.

During the winter of 1863-64, the attention of the Baroness Mayer de Rothschild was attracted to an article in *Punch*, headed "Dinners for Poor Children Wanted." It referred to an article in the *Guernsey Star* on a systematic plan of feeding a number of poor children with meat once a fortnight, initiated by the great French poet Victor Hugo.

At the instigation of the Baroness, a similar plan was, on the 16th February, 1864, commenced at the Ragged School in New Tothill Street, Westminster, the number of children thus fed regularly being fifty. The expenses were for nine months entirely defrayed by that lady; but, by that time, the success of the plan became so manifest to the three medical gentlemen who had undertaken the immediate supervision of the experiment, that the public were invited to join in the work, and the number of children fed regularly was increased to 200. During the year 1866, over 3,000 dinners were given at the new Tothill Street Schools, and at the end of this year an appeal for assistance, kindly inserted by the editor of the *Times* in the columns of that journal, brought so much assistance in money, that it was felt to be desirable that this system of feeding poor children should, if possible, be extended to other districts.

At this time a meeting of gentlemen interested in various schemes for the welfare of the destitute, was convened at the house of the Right Honourable Wm. Cowper Temple, M.P., and after much consideration it was determined to modify and extend the plan carried on with success at New Tothill Street. With this view an influential committee, with the Earl of Shaftesbury as president, and Mr. Wm. Cowper Temple as chairman, was formed, and the name of the Society was settled to be, as at present, "The Destitute Children's Dinners Society." A larger room in New Tothill Street was prepared where 100 children could be fed daily, and the use of a second room at Turk's Row Ragged School, Chelsea, was secured (the expenses of this second dinner being defrayed by the Countess de Noailles). In these two dining-rooms, 15,576 dinners were given in the year 1867, on payment of one penny each child, and 1,246 gratuitously to those who assisted in preparing and serving the meal, making a total of 96,822 dinners, at a cost of £299 9s. 3d. to the Society, the children's pence amounting to £64 18s.

From the last report we glean the following interesting facts and figures:—

During the year ending 30th September, 1873, thirty-nine dining rooms were opened for longer or shorter periods in the various impoverished localities in the metropolis; and 104,486 dinners were supplied to the ragged and destitute children attending schools in their respective neighbourhoods. These schools are mostly affiliated to the Ragged School Union.

Various members of the committee from time to time make official visits to the different rooms where dinners are provided by the Society's funds. The result of such visits is in all cases reported by the visitor at the next meeting of the committee, and entered in the

minute-book. The object of these visits is to ascertain from the superintendents their general plan of management; to take personal note of the children, their numbers, condition, and degree of tidiness; to make inquiries as to the quality of the food provided, and to learn whether the rules of the Society are carried out. When any divergence from these rules has been found out, the case has been reported, and immediate attention to the rules has been required as a necessary condition for a continuance of the grant. As an instance of the check that is kept upon the operations of the superintendents who have received grants, two cases may be mentioned, in which, quite regardless of the Society's rule No. 4, a very large number of children were being fed on a pea soup, into the composition of which but a very few pounds of meat had entered (in one case about six pounds for three hundred children), the principal constituents being flour and vegetables; the object apparently being to satisfy for a time the clamours of as many children as possible, instead of endeavouring by repeating week after week upon the same children the experiment of a good meat dinner, to raise their physical condition sufficiently to enable them to battle better against their miseries and so profit more by attendance at school. Now the committee state that the purpose they have in view is *not* to encourage Soup Kitchens, however useful these may be in their place. It has in some cases been thought a sufficient answer, when exception has been taken to the way in which dinners have been given, to say, "Oh, I assure you it is a good work that I am doing, and pea soup is very good for the children: and then we feed so many more: how could we give meat dinners to so many?" But it never was the object of this Society to collect together all the necessitous children that can be found, and crowding them into a room to give them what might for the moment satisfy their cravings. For the committee's mode of working is different: it was adopted after much experience by medical men, solely on medical grounds, and has been found best in the long run. Their plan is to give to a fewer number of children, who are in actual attendance at schools, a substantial meat dinner of the value of fourpence, for one penny, once a week. In both of the above cases, all further grants were refused, so soon as the use to which the Society's funds were put was fully ascertained.

No one in these days who has seriously thought on the subject, supposes that individual or unorganised random charity is deserving the name. It is true that the spirit in which such acts are done is the most important thing; but it is surely better and a greater test of principle and perseverance to ally oneself to some organised and well-established society, and make its rules and procedure as it were, the

framework on which to hang any charitable act. When we contemplate the numbers of miserable children about the streets, whose condition it would be impossible to improve by any single-handed effort, it must be admitted that every plea of prudence and charity recommends the support of a systematic agency like that of the Destitute Children's Dinners Society, which has for its object the steady improvement of one large class of those whose wretchedness stares us in the face in every street in London. If we are compelled to leave the unmanageable alone, we are the more bound to aid an instrumentality which accomplishes the most excellent results without being liable to danger of abuse.

From the last annual financial account we gather that £927 19s. 5d. was given by subscribers; the Society's grants were £867; and £236 12s. 3½d. was paid by scholars.

THE ITALIAN WHITE SLAVE TRADE.

Those who inherit the antipathies of the late Mr. Babbage will rejoice to learn that the Italian Government has at last succeeded in passing the Bill which the Chambers have had on the anvil for five years for the suppression of what is known in Italy as the "white slave trade." The Roman correspondent of the *Times* gives a few details concerning the scope of this law, which, if successful, will mitigate a double inhumanity. It will rescue from the clutches of greedy speculators an immense number of Italian children, who are now forced, under the most cruel treatment, to earn an income for their masters by the scarcely disguised mendicancy of the organ-grinder and the dancing girl; and it will at least diminish the nuisance of street music, which is becoming more and more intolerable to those who pursue sedentary occupations demanding mental absorption in London and other large towns, and to the wearied invalid or nervous convalescent.

It must be admitted, in justice to the Italian Government, that its endeavours to suppress or check "La Tratta dei Bianchi" are not the result of a new-born zeal, for the Piedmontese Government spent twelve years in the search for a remedy of an acknowledged evil, and the Government of United Italy took up the task in 1860, which it has only just brought to a practical conclusion. It remains to be seen whether the effort will be successful. The traffic in young boys and girls for the purposes of employment in "wandering trades" is to be effectually stopped only by controlling the exportation, which supplies what may be called the raw material.

It is to be hoped that our Government will lend the Italians all the aid in its power towards carrying out the good work. Not to speak of the advantage of abating a notorious and most annoying nuisance, it is incumbent on us to do all we can to save the children who are kidnapped or crimped for the organ-grinding or the dancing-girl business from the miseries and dangers of the life to which they are doomed. Even in London, sanitary legislation and police supervision are not able to do much towards the merely physical cleansing of the noisome warrens in which the Italian children are packed by their grasping and inhuman masters, and moral purification is all but hopeless. The boys grow up vagrants and beggars, with habits of dirt and disorder and strong inclinations towards thieving. The fate of the girls is worse.

The new law imposes heavy fines on the parents or guardians of Italian children who "apprentice" them to strolling trades, and still heavier fines on the employers who take such apprentices. The penalties are very properly increased when the children are taken out of the country, or are forsaken, ill-fed, or ill-treated.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

We have often wished that some one who understands Italian would take charge of these interesting children, and form a separate class in a Ragged School. It is estimated that there are above 4,000 Italians of school age in London. They are all very poor, though by dancing and singing they bring in large sums weekly to the bad men who imported them into England. On Sundays swarms of these poor half-starved children may be seen in the alleys of Saffron Hill. Very few can read, and their creed consists of but two articles—namely, belief in the priests, and worship of Mary! As they are very intelligent and most docile, we think that they would well repay any one who would strive to win them for Jesus.

Who, then, will help to teach these white slaves that not Mary but Jesus is the One who "carries the lambs in His bosom"?

NOTTING DALE WOOD-CHOPPING BRIGADE.

THE temperature is daily recorded at the Greenwich Observatory, and coals fill columns of advertisements; but the halfpenny bundle of wood has never been honoured with a leading article, or filled "twenty words" in the fly-sheet of a daily paper. It employs, however, thousands of hands in the metropolis. Small capitalists, with only a few shillings in hand, keep an honest living going. Truck-loads come out of cellars and mews, and the horse and van bring up piles of them from Deptford and Limehouse. A man and four boys will make "an

independence" by them, and great yards yield a little fortune. They are tossed over the pavement and the passengers' heads into the grocery and coke-shed, for nothing in London can afford to stand still; and they are planted by the hundred into the nobleman's cellar, as if they were as common as coals. The widow sends her last two farthings by five little fingers, and a voice like an ill-tuned fiddle, for "Please, sir, a bundle of wood, and will you send a good un?" when she can only afford to warm up a little gruel for a sick child. At the same time a gorgeous party are assembled in a brilliant drawing-room, who know nothing of the old man with two sore legs and four half-clad, untaught boys, who stave off the workhouse a little longer by chipping away in a damp cellar to provide kindlers for the polished stove.

The halfpenny bundle has defied all competition of machinery, and the "patent fire-lighter;" and nothing has yet beaten the hands and fingers of the yolkers who saw and split away at the Norwegian timber and tie it up with a simple piece of string.

It is one of the elementary employments which belong to lads of between thirteen and seventeen years of age. It is clean, half sedentary and active; and well suited for hulking boys, whom hunger may compel to work. It can be done in gangs, large or small; it keeps the lads under constant supervision and training. It is also sufficiently remunerative to feed the workers, and to yield a percentage for their clothing; and can be supplemented by evening education. This has been done in several neighbourhoods, and, notably, as part of Dr. Bernardo's plans in the far East.

A commencement has just been made in the Kensington Potteries, where seventeen tag-rags were at work in defunct pigsties, until a committee of gentlemen was formed by the city missionary of the district to take the trade in hand. They have erected a suitable workshop, engaged the master as their manager, and employed an evening schoolmaster. The boys now number twenty—boys who worried the streets, were a load on their parents, and ready for anything. The manager prepares hot coffee, and soap and towels when they leave work for school; and takes them on Sunday nights to St. James's Place Ragged School. In five weeks they have learned five hymn-tunes and made some progress in reading, &c. The first week of school they passed a resolution among themselves, that if any boy used bad language on the works he should be bumped; smoking and songs have been abandoned, and the flame is evidently rising. The committee assemble with prayer, and have nothing meaner in view than to bring these scapegraces to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. A code of rules has been submitted to the boys and passed *nem. con.*, one of

which is that each shall leave a halfpenny in the shilling of his earnings for clothing, which will, with assistance at the beginning, make them a handsome brigade worthy of the royal parish of Kensington; and, by God's blessing, they may become "meet to be inheritors of the saints in light."

Whether this is the only kind of elementary employment for unappropriated hands that can be organised is worthy of inquiry; and perhaps the subject may be open to the pages of the "Ragged School Union Magazine." W. P.

Notting Dale Ragged School,
February, 1874.

LETTERS FROM THE "CHICHESTER" BOYS.

Who has not heard of the "Chichester"?—that ship which has done so much to bend the physical energies of street boys to the public service.

The boys so received into this training-ship must have attained 13 years, and none are received over 17. About 1,500 street boys—the rough material out of which thieves are manufactured—have been admitted into this vessel since 1867, when it began its career of usefulness. Trained as sailors by five efficient instructors, as a rule they make first-rate seamen; and the certificates of captains, both of the Royal Navy and the Mercantile Service, speak most highly of their sailor-like qualities.

That these young sailors do not forget their old benefactors, the following letters fully prove:—

December 7th, 1871.

Captain Thurburn,—Dear Sir,—I write these few lines to you wishing you very good health and prosperity. I hope that all the "Chichester" boys are quite well, likewise all the officers. I am glad to tell you that I am very happy and comfortable, likewise No. 5, H——. We are now going through the Channel with very fair weather; we have been obliged to anchor several times on account of contrary or no wind at all. I have had a little sea-sickness; thank God I am better now. I am glad to tell you that we have a good and sociable crew, and a good captain, as far as I can tell; and I am happy to say that I took your advice that you gave me on the morning of my leaving the "Chichester," and I am quite happy. I think now and then of my mother and father, who are both dead, and I hope and trust they are in heaven. But I am not alone, I have a Heavenly Father that will care and keep me free from all perils and dangers, both

on sea and land. I have my Bible under my pillow, which, when I am awake, is my delight and comfort. I have it before me, and read it whenever I have an opportunity; I study it with sincerity, and I feel that I am forgiven, and that Jesus is my guide and my only thought. There is none but Him can save us, and, thank God, I can plainly see it, and trust only in it. I wish to tell you that I called into the Refuge and saw Mr. Williams, and I told him that you was quite well, and that all the "Chichester" boys were quite well. Dear Sir, I wish to tell you that we are bound for Port Natal, South Africa, and, if all goes well, go from there to Mauritius, and from there to Melbourne, and it is likely to be a long voyage. The name of our vessel is the "Natal Star," and the owners are Rennie and Co., of Aberdeen. Dear Sir, the "Chichester" has been the making of me, and tell the boys never to run it down. Dear Sir, if you wish to write to me, I shall be in Port Natal about the latter end of February, and you can write according to time. So now I must conclude, with my best respects to all the "Chichester" boys, and likewise the officers. Accept the same from me, your humble and obedient servant,

H. D——.

Dear Sir, will you read this to the boys:—

Shipmates All,—I wish you all quite well, and I hope you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you will all enjoy your Christmas. Tell B—— and M—— that I am going to sail on Monday morning to Port Natal in a nice little barque named the "Natal Star," and I wish you may keep good conduct while you are on board. I am glad that I have been a good boy and got a very good discharge. We were only going to get 10s. a month, but when the captain saw our discharges, he said he would give us 12s. 6d. a month. Now for a word of advice: study your honourable Captain Thurburn, and obey all your officers, and agree with every one, and try to make peace; do not break the rules, and tell Mr. Curty I was sorry that I committed myself on Sunday, but he knows the cause of it, and I thank Mr. Curty very much for forgiving me; besides, it makes me feel happy.

H. D——.

Trincomalee, Ceylon.

My Dear Sir,—I write these few lines to you hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. Dear Sir, I am happy to say I am getting on very well for the short time I have been at sea. We have had a very long passage out; very fine weather most of the time. Sir, we are bound to Trincomalee, and from there to Pointagall to discharge our cargo, and from there to Colombo to load for London.

I send my best respects to Mr. Williams, also Mr. Curty, and my kind love to Mrs. Curty; I also send my kind love to Mr. Roach and Mr. Marsh; I also send my love to the boys of the ship, and should like to know how they are getting on. George H—— also sends his kind love to all. We shall be home in October or November, and we shall come down to see the boys. Yours truly,

L. J. D——.

April 28th, 1871.

Dear Sir,—Excuse the liberty I take in writing this letter, but knowing your kindness and the interest you take in the "Chichester" boys, I write these few lines to let you know how I am getting on. I am very happy and comfortable indeed; the captain and crew are such kind homely people, I feel quite at home here. The captain has been so kind as to give me 2s. a week more than he promised me, and I believe Mr. N. H—— is going to make me his servant, so that I can wait upon him when he goes travelling, and when he goes to town. I am able to save 5s. a week out of my wages. Dear Sir, I shall not be able to come the 2nd of May to be confirmed, as I promised, but I shall come and see you the first opportunity I have. Please save my Bible that I forgot until I am able to come. Give my best respects to the captain for me, and remember me to Mr. Tye and all the officers, thanking them for all their kindness to me while on board. I expect we shall go to France from here, and then go to Gosport to refit for the summer, so that it may be a month or so before I shall be able to come, but I shall write again. Thanking you for all your past kindness to me, I remain, yours humbly,

J. D——, No. 99.

Yacht Clio, Dover Harbour, Dover, Kent.

THE RAGGED SCHOLAR WHO "FOUND HIMSELF."

Harry has just been and bought his apples at Covent Garden Market, but as it rains he has not so much chance of selling them again. That is how he gets his living, and in fine warm weather things are not bad with him. People don't mind then stopping to look at his rosy-cheeked apples, and they find time to fumble in their pockets for their halfpence, so he earns enough perhaps to dine on one of those hot mutton pies which are always smoking on that little portable oven which stands at the corner of the next street. But it is not often he fares so well as this; usually he contents himself with a hunch of bread and cheese for his dinner; a cup of coffee and a roll

for his afternoon meal; as to supper,—well, unless the day has been very prosperous, it is early to bed, and hope for better fortune to-morrow.

Harry is thirteen years old, and he has "found himself," as the London street boys call it, almost ever since he can remember. Ah! he has not always been as well off as he is now; young as he is, life has been a rough pathway to him. His mother died when he was a baby, and he was left to the care of a stepfather. Little care did he bestow upon him, he only taught him to beg, and then would beat him if he brought nothing home. He had neither shoes nor stockings, and how his clothes hung together was a marvel, they were so poor and tattered. But there was one good thing about him, he always would be clean, and though he had neither basin, soap, nor towel, he managed to wash himself every morning at the pump in the courtyard.

Another thing was, he wanted to learn to read, and a happy day it was for the poor outcast boy when he first found himself within the walls of a Ragged School. He had often heard people as they passed a certain doorway of a house, call it an "evening school," and noticed boys as ragged as himself going in and out there. At last he peeped in timidly himself; it was such a warm, well-lighted room, so full of children, and all so busy and happy, poor Harry was riveted to the spot; but the superintendent soon spied him out, spoke kindly to him, and very soon he was seated amongst the rest, really beginning to learn to read. Night after night he came, his place was never empty, and in course of time the ability to read was secured.

But he learned better things than this; he learned that uncared for as he was by earthly friends, he was yet loved and thought of by the Great Father in the sky, and that though he had no home here, Jesus had died to make ready a home for him in heaven. And Harry began to rise in his own self-respect as these blessed truths sank into his heart. Why should he not have a place in life like others had? Why should *he* not earn an honest living? If Jesus was preparing a place for him in the sky, surely there must be his own proper corner for him to fill down here on the earth. He would not beg any more, and God would help him to something to do.

The superintendent had given him some better clothes and a pair of shoes, this was one step upwards. The next was to ask his friend if he could put him in the way of getting a living. After many talks and consultations, it was agreed that he should set up as fruiterer. How grand it sounded, and how proud Harry felt at the very idea! The superintendent gave him a basket, and lent him two shillings, with which to begin his marketing. Harry lay awake on the heap of

straw which served him for a bed, making his purchases over and over again that night. Before it was fully light he had given himself an extra wash at the pump, put on his clothes with extra care, committed his day's work to the Heavenly Father he had learned to trust, and then he started off with his basket to Covent Garden Market.

Perhaps you have fruit and vegetables in your own garden, but have you ever seen Covent Garden at four or five o'clock on a summer morning? Most likely not; but think of the two or three millions of people in London who have to be fed, and you may form some idea of the piles, and heaps of potatoes and greens, nuts, and apples, which are poured out there every morning for the supply of this hungry host. Gathered from the country villages and market gardens miles away, they are brought in waggons to this great centre, and from thence distributed through the length and breadth of the city by fruiterers and hawkers.

Here it was that Harry came, and a great while he took to make his purchases. Many an apple he turned over before he was satisfied he had got the best he could for his money. When at last he had chosen them, the next thing was to carry them away, cry them, and sell them. At the end of the day he had not one left, and he had got his two shillings back again, and sixpence beside. So he spent twopence on his supper, kept the same for his breakfast, and that left him twopence more for his next day's capital.

Thus Harry began, and thus he went on; he was not always equally prosperous; sometimes it was wet, and nobody cared to look at the most tempting apples under a dripping umbrella. Once he got knocked down—basket and all, and only a few of his precious store could be gathered up again. But he has paid back the two shillings long ago, and has now began to save a little on his own account. For the face of our young friend is rarely missing from the crowd of depositors, old and young, at the Penny Bank on Monday evening.

And he still goes to the Ragged School at night—that is his happiest time, because he hears and sings about that Friend above the bright blue sky who has helped him to help himself, who keeps him day by day, and who he feels sure will never leave him nor forsake him.

Hints for Teachers.

EVERY-DAY ERRORS.

Part II.

III. LATE ATTENDANCE.

Too many teachers destroy the power of the school by their late attendance. Instead of being in their places at least five minutes before the formal opening takes place, in order to check the tendency to folly and playfulness of the class, they are late, and enter hurriedly while the hymn is being sung or prayer is offered; and often also they are so far behind as to hear nothing of either.

The want of punctuality in a teacher works almost irreparable mischief in young minds. In their way of reasoning they assume to be their rights any bad practice the teacher commits, and after such has become known, the assembling of the class will always depend upon the teacher himself or herself. For ourselves, we must admit that a teacher is rightly served when he has so far forgot to be punctual, and on going to his place finds no one there. It is a sharp rebuke, and if he is wise he will turn it to good account.

IV. STYLE OF DRESS.

Another influence of very mischievous tendency is the style of dress and ornament worn by many teachers. We recently saw in a Sunday Ragged School a young lady having on a bright blue silk dress, costly lace shawl, rings upon most fingers, gold chain, and numerous ornaments of the same metal, with a monstrous head-dress, having ribbons and flowers in it of all the brightest colours. It is needless to state that the only *practical* teaching there was the admiration of finery, and the simple girls who formed the class speedily appeared with theatrical silver and gold bands over their hair, jaunty head-gear, trimmed with tawdry ribbons, polished brass rings on their fingers, and even bracelets on the wrists improvised out of all available materials.

One such teacher being remonstrated with, argued that "dress has nothing to do with religion;" but it met with the rejoinder, "True, but religion has a great deal to do with dress, for the words of the apostle are, 'In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shame-facedness and sobriety; not with broidered (or plaited) hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." Surely the evil consequences of parade in dress before our simple and ignorant school children is bad, and we are fully persuaded that they are not much inferior to those of drinking itself.

V. GIFTS TO SCHOLARS.

The practice of giving frequent presents to the scholars is another of the means of destroying the influence of salutary principles. One teacher we know amongst many others, offers a premium for the cleanest class card, and as a consequence it is never produced by the scholars as is required; it is laid by, never looked at, and the lessons for

repetition are not brought forward. Each has an excuse, and when another teacher takes charge of the class there is pouting of the lips and much disagreeableness. Sometimes one or two favourites are taken home to tea, and this occasions jealousy; each day fresh gifts are produced, which has the effect of undervaluing the marks recorded on their behalf, and so they learn that gifts are forthcoming without the exercise of any energy whatever, and despise the usual prizes of the school. To purchase thus the attendance of scholars not only has the result of lessening the teacher's authority, but that of the superintendent also. Insubordination is always ready to break loose, and the class is really a nursery for vicious and selfish habits.

VI. READING STORY-BOOKS.

Some teachers, in their desire to entertain the class, are in the practice of taking story-books for reading, to the total exclusion of Scripture. In a measure this may be tolerated in infant and first-grade classes, so long as the subject has a point of interest and bears upon the lesson of the day. But for advanced classes we condemn the practice *in toto*. If the teacher has not a memory sufficiently fertile in illustration, cannot remember what has been read during the week, or is too careless or idle to prepare the Sunday lesson,—our advice is, retire from the office. Children too soon acquire the love of reading for amusement, and we should be the last to imitate it in the Ragged Sunday School, backing up the practice as it were with the authority of the institution. It should be the constant aim of the teacher to show implicit obedience to the rules of the school, and in the matter of teaching to avoid introducing books, of whatever character, that are not included in the recognised list. The superintendent has a design and object in the plans he sets forth; and to make use of other than the Scriptures or usual class-books, is no less than utter defiance of authority, which may work great mischief in many ways in the minds of the scholars.

VII. DISORDERLY SCHOLARS.

The last point to which we will allude is the mode in which teachers sometimes deal with disorderly scholars. We often hear one say, "I wish you would speak to So-and-so," or, "If you don't behave, I'll tell the superintendent," and, what is worse, "Please take this boy from my class; I cannot manage him at all." These are but so many absolute confessions of utter inability to control the delinquent.

Let us advise our readers to adopt the plan of keeping their own counsel; if they feel half or nearly beaten by a troublesome child, let them keep quite cool, and in no way *strive* with the child. Leave him, saying, "I will speak to you when your temper is gone," or, if after repeated trial he rises as bad as before, merely tell him you will have him dismissed from your class. Hand him to the superintendent, saying, "I cannot possibly take him back again until he promises to reform." You thus preserve your power and authority intact, and he sees it at once. His removal to the superintendent may be attended with suspension, and when he promises amendment your permission to receive him again must be obtained.

Never threaten until you are compelled by extreme bad conduct, and let that which you promise be done *at once*. Rather let the influence of kindly-expressed words and loving tenderness characterise all your behaviour towards them. Throw all the interest possible into the recital of your Scripture details and exposition; let them see you believe it, love it, and make it your study.

In conclusion, pray earnestly for light and the Holy Spirit to guide and counsel you; pray for your scholars, pray with them also when convenient; and thus asking faithfully, you will receive, and be made strong in the power of the Lord.

S. R. H. S.

Children's Page.

POOR JOE.

"You think this a very good school, I suppose," said a tall boy, of indifferent character, to his teacher one day.

"I do," was the reply.

"I thought so," uttered the lad, fiercely, "I tell you it's done me a great deal of harm."

"Harm! In what way?" was the kind but ready inquiry.

"Why, in this way: when I first came here I could manage to pick up a living, now I am starving; look at me, and then tell me whether you think this blessed Ragged School has done me any good?"

"But tell me," said the teacher, "in what way the good advice and instruction you receive here interferes with your livelihood?"

"In this way: when I go after a handkerchief, them words you were preaching about the other Sunday comes right up before me, 'Be sure your sin will find you out,' and the pluck goes clean out of me, and here I am—starving."

Poor fellow, he had long been thrown upon the wide world, his hand against every man—getting a trifle here and something more there—earning a precarious livelihood as the fruit of his dishonesty. It was all in vain that his teacher told him the Bible said "Thou shalt not steal," he persisted that the school had done him "a great deal of harm."

He soon learned, however, that it was not the school that was at fault, but his own habits of pilfering and dishonesty. His teachers were far better friends to him than he imagined, for, as he said afterwards, "a penny earned goes much farther than a shilling stolen; for, somehow or other, the shilling goes and doesn't seem to do you much good, besides there's more satisfaction in spending your own money."

Joe regularly attended the Ragged School, left off his pilfering, and with thrifty and industrious habits soon found that honesty was the best policy. By dint of perseverance he continued to obtain a comfortable livelihood, thankful to his teachers for the kind advice and the helping hand they had given him.

H. R. W.

"LOOK AT ME NOW."

Our Ragged Schools are attended by a great many children who, were it not for "Drink," would not be so badly off as they are. But these little children have often been ministers of mercy in this respect to their fathers and mothers.

There is a goodly band of them whose names are enrolled in the Bands of Hope, and the meetings held by it in one of our Ragged Schools are very well attended. A few months ago, a little boy with a thin face, and dressed in the worst of rags, began to attend. So careworn did he look that he was scarcely like a child; he might have been any age. But after awhile there began to be a gradual improvement in James, and one day he appeared in a strong suit of clothes. "Why, James," said the teacher, "how came you to be so smart to-day?"

James looked up with a beaming face and a twinkling eye. "Oh, sir, daddy's a teetotaller," said he. "I never rested till I taught him the prayer:—

'Great God, and wilt Thou condescend
To be my Father and my Friend?
I, a poor child, and Thou so high,
The Lord of earth and air and sky.'

Then I brought him here to the Band of Hope meetings, and he signed the pledge, and *look at me now.*"

Father and child are walking in the narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Reader, thank God for Ragged Schools.

E.

Ragged School Union.

At the meeting of the Managing Committee held on 13th February, the receipts for January were reported to have been £857 17s. 7d., and the payments £316 3s.

Quarterly grants amounting to £63 15s. were voted to fifteen schools. Repayments of £74 19s. 10d. to twenty institutions named by donors were also voted.

The two School Agents read abstracts of their Annual Reports for the year 1873.

The annual grant to West Greenwich School was increased to £33 13s. 4d.

A special grant of £10 was voted to Lower Park Road School, and £5 per annum was also voted to the new Girl's Night School, which meets twi ce weekly.

A special grant of £10 was voted towards the debt on Horseferry Road School, to be paid when the rest of the debt is removed.

A special grant of £2 10s. was voted towards the repairs, &c., of Jacob's Island School.

It was resolved to convene a meeting of the teachers of schools

connected with the Ragged School Union to consider "Mission Work in Ragged Schools, and how to promote it." The teachers will be convened in the four sections into which the Union is divided, and the subject for conversation will be introduced by members of the Committee of the Central Society.

Applications for grants from Chequer Alley, Victoria Place, Lansdown Place, Moore Street, and Britannia Place Schools were read, and will be considered at the next meeting.

Facts and Scraps.

AMICABLE ROW, KENT STREET.—On the retirement of Mr. B. Thatcher from the office of superintendent of this Sunday Evening Ragged School, his fellow-labourers presented him with a handsome testimonial of their esteem. Not only from its commencement did he keep in activity and harmony this Sunday School, with its 500 scholars and 30 voluntary workers, but for above twenty-one years Mr. Thatcher has conducted the Penny Bank attached to the Ragged School in Harrow Street, Mint. Last year this Penny Bank had no less than 2,116 depositors. It is, in fact, the savings bank of this district.

BRIDGE STREET, GREENWICH.—So successful has the Sunday Evenings Children's Service been found, that one week-night has been devoted to the same labour of love. Might not one week-night be so occupied by all our large Ragged Schools?

CHURCH PLACE, PADDINGTON GREEN.—For many years an Infants' Nursery has been attached to this Ragged School. It is carried on in a well-lighted and ventilated room at the top story of the schoolhouse. Last year 1,470 infants were received and carefully tended by a kind motherly matron, who has won the confidence of the women of the adjacent dust-yards. Twopence per day is charged.

CHARLES STREET, DRURY LANE.—This Ragged School has just opened a room as a boys' reading-room. Well supplied with periodicals and books, it attracts about twenty-five two evenings weekly. The Committee of the Ragged School Union, in order to encourage this novel plan, recently gave a grant towards the purchase of books.

PEAR STREET, WESTMINSTER.—At the Ragged Church held in this school six blind men regularly attend. So popular has this service recently become that Divine worship is conducted on Thursday as well as on Sunday evenings.

GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET, MARYLEBONE.—A daily Prayer Meeting has just been commenced in the Mission Chapel attached to this Ragged School. It is held from a quarter past twelve till a quarter to one, and about forty adults attend the service.

MISSION SERVICES IN RAGGED SCHOOLS.—During the second week of February special Mission Services were held in several Ragged Schools in the evening. Among these were Field Lane, Gray's Yard, Queen's Square, and Rufford's Buildings. The teachers of Bridge Street and Horseferry Road schools devoted three evenings to special services for the scholars.

FRENCH SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—Though but recent in their formation, there are 960 Protestant Sunday Schools in France, of which 67 were commenced last year. In Paris alone above 7,000 children attend Sunday School. Many of these are Ragged Schools in everything but name.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL BOARD AND RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION. — This School Board has declined to give in future any religious instruction in their schools. But at their meeting on February 11th, in lieu thereof they agreed to accept the offer of the Birmingham Religious Education Society to give voluntary religious teaching to such children as desire it in Board Schools at separate hours. The scheme was adopted by a majority of eight.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.—The Committee of the Sunday School Union are arranging for a Convention of Sunday School teachers of all denominations from all parts of London, to be held on the afternoons and evenings of March 24th, 25th, and 26th. Practical subjects bearing upon Sunday School work will be considered. Sunday Schools connected or unconnected with the Sunday School Union are invited to appoint representatives. Applications for tickets to be made to the secretaries, 56, Old Bailey.

PAUPERISM. — Mr. Stansfield's return, just published, of the number of paupers of all classes in the receipt of relief on the 1st of July, 1873, shows, as compared with the enumeration of the same day in 1872, a decrease in the general pauperism of 54,482 persons, or 6·2 per cent. The decline in the number of able-bodied persons on the relief lists is still more considerable. There were on the 1st of July, 1873, 109,646 able-bodied men and women on the lists, a decrease of 12,500, or 10·2 per cent., on the number shown the year before of 122,152 able-bodied paupers. The decrease of able-bodied pauperism is most marked in the mining and manufacturing districts.

ARSENIC IN FACTORIES.—A recent report by the public analyst for Greenock draws attention to the alarming extent to which arsenic is used in that town. Last Christmas morning a large square cake, in which was imbedded a green card, labelled, "For the bairnies," was seized in a baker's window. The card was coated with sugar, and on being submitted to analysis was found to contain 7·04 grains of arsenious acid! But what is equally bad, this poisonous substance is largely used in colouring the flowers, feathers, and ribbons of ladies' bonnets, the pigment from which can often be shaken off. Many girls in the London Ragged Schools are employed in the artificial flower trade, and may not the use of arsenic account for their general bad health?

Notices of Meetings.

BRACKLEY STREET, GOLDEN LANE.

On January 16th the children of this Ragged School had their annual treat, and the next day their fathers and mothers came to tea.

After tea there was a public meeting, at which Mr. Blest presided, and at which addresses were delivered. After prayer, Mr. Blest bade them, in the words of the transparency behind him, "Come and welcome." Mr. Minchin, the missionary, addressed the parents on their duties to their children. Mr. Griffith testified to the excellence of the work carried on there by Miss Bedell. Often as he had visited the place, he had never seen the teacher unkind nor the children rude. Mr. Thomas created a great impression as he spoke of what he had seen of the frugality and good management of the French poor, and suggested the need of a school of cookery in Golden Lane. Mr. Stapley referred to the religious awakening in different parts of the country, and hoped they would all have Christ in their hearts as their greatest source of joy. Mr. Barton laid great stress on the non-attendance of the men. He hoped in the future there would be more of them present. The chairman again urged upon his hearers the importance of availing themselves of the spiritual advantage of the place. It was intended, he said, to establish a Bible-class for young men and lads, which he hoped would be well attended. One cheering fact mentioned by him was, at Christmas time the deposits in the savings bank had been unusually large.

PENDLETON.

The eleventh annual meeting in connection with this institution was held in the hall, John Street, between 400 and 500 sitting down to tea. Afterwards Mr. T. Briggs (president) occupied the chair.

The annual report, as read by Mr. Sugden, stated that there are nearly four hundred who have each paid 2d. per month, for which a penny monthly, as the *British Workman*, *Cottager*, &c., has been delivered at their homes, and which 2d. has also entitled them to front seats at the monthly lecture entertainment, and free tickets for the annual tea-meeting. In this way 3,410 good publications have been in circulation, making, with the eighty or so monthly members of the parents' branch, about 450 regular members, and total of such publications for the year of about 4,500. Adding to these the 500 or so per month of the hall monthly visitors, sold with others in circulation amongst the Ragged School scholars, we get a total of about 13,000 monthlies paid for, and thus read throughout the last year.

The reading and recreation rooms each Monday and Saturday have proved a popular resort for youths, 1,260 having paid for admission during the first half of the year, and 1,704 in the second half, or a total of 2,964; the receipts being £12 7s. On the other evenings of the week the more regular and deserving of the children attending the place have had the free use of the gymnasium, &c.

The average attendance at the

Mothers' Meetings has been 26, though 50 are entered as members. Mission Services are held on Sunday afternoons and nights, our friends conducting a service each Wednesday night. Simple earnest addresses have been given; many prayer meetings held; much out-door missionary visitation and relief of sick; and distribution of tracts and small books attended to. The tracts for the year numbered 68,000. A weekly cottage meeting was also carried on. The attendance at the indoor services on Sunday afternoon is about 70, and 150 in the evening; and on Wednesdays from 20 to 40. Some attending the services have given evidence of a true change of heart, and a fair proportion have joined places of worship in the neighbourhood.

As regards the infant Kindergarten School, the whole cost of this very expensive school, numbering 90 scholars, is borne by Mr. William Agnew. The Ragged School and Children's Religious Services have been even better attended during the past year than they were before. The attendance at the former was in summer 175 to 257, in winter 372 to 541, and even some were refused admission through want of teachers to take charge of them. A Children's Service has been held throughout the year on the Wednesday, attended by from 100 to 220 children. The weekly Band of Hope Temperance Meeting is now attended by from 90 to 160 young persons. A Night School has been held one or two evenings per week. For several months a Children's Service has also been held each Sunday afternoon, for those going nowhere else, and this has been attended by from 100 to 180 children.

During the last winter from 80 to 100 dinners were given weekly to poor children. The Scriptural slips distributed at the Ragged School, &c., have numbered 46,000. The deposits in the Penny Bank last year numbered 2,934, for £273 4s. 3d., the new accounts being 266.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL SERVICE MISSION.

In connection with this Mission the "Children's Evangelical Band" has been formed, which consists of Christian workers who are prepared to conduct, at any school in London, a series of special evangelical services for children and young people. The great object of these services is to lead the young to a present acceptance of Christ. The first meeting of the various divisions of this band was held on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 165, Aldersgate Street. Mr. W. T. Paton presided.

The afternoon was devoted to prayer and short addresses. After tea a conference was held, when the following subjects were discussed. 1. The addresses at evangelic services for children. 2. How to speak to children individually in the conversational meetings. This is a most important feature of the work. Those who truly desire to give their hearts to the Saviour are invited to remain after the services, in order that the teachers and Christian friends present may converse and pray with them. Great interest was manifested in the proceedings, and several practical suggestions were made.

MR. GEO. THOS. CONGREVE'S WORK ON CONSUMPTION,

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NEW CASE.—FEBRUARY, 1874.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE recently reported of A LADY at SOUTHEND.

The following letter from the patient's husband will best relate the benefits she received—(the name of the lady is Mrs. SAML. HAWTREE, of SOUTHEND, ESSEX):—

"Six years ago my wife complained of failing health. Her lungs were much affected. During the first four years of her illness she was attended at different times by four physicians, but became much weaker. *The muscles of the arms wasted nearly all away. Her breathing became so difficult, especially at night, that persons in the street could hear her, and no sleep could be got in the house.*

"At the end of the four years, when at her worst, the physician told me '*her lungs were like a honeycomb,*' and that she was '*past human aid.*' She was sinking, and so weak I could not think of bringing her to you, I therefore procured your medicine through the chemist at Rochford. She took it at bed-time, and *for the first time in twelve months I was not once disturbed with the distressing sounds.* She persevered for six months, and was so altered in appearance and health that *those only who had known her, before and after, could believe the extraordinary change she had undergone.* Winter brought on some symptoms of the old complaint, but the Balsam has again removed it. By the blessing of God *it has raised her from the very verge of the grave.*

"I may add that before taking your medicine the expectoration was very bad, and in the first month she brought up large quantities of the most corrupt matter, but after this it ceased; also before taking it she was unable to get out at all, but *but now she can walk and ride well for miles in the open air—even in winter.*

"You are at liberty to make any use of this letter or any part of it you please.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, SAML. HAWTREE."

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Enquiry should be made for Mr. J. Hawkins, the Inspector of City Messenger Brigade.

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J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

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Tuesday, Mar. 24.—*After.*, 3.30.		"The Sunday School: its connection with the Christian Church."
,, ,, *Even.*, 6.30.		"Youthful Discipleship: its Features, Tests, Help, and Hindrances."
Wednesday, Mar. 25.—*After.*, 3.30.		"The Sunday School as it should be." (1) The Teacher's Work. (2) The Office of Superintendent. (3) The Secretary and other Officers.
,, ,, *Even.*, 6.30.		"External Work." (1) Week Evening Engagements of Teachers and Scholars. (2) Home Influence of the Sunday School.
Thursday, Mar. 26.—*After.*, 3.30.		"The Mission of the Christian Church to the Children outside the Sunday School."
,, ,, *Even.*, 6.30.		"The Influence of National Education upon the Sunday School Cause."

Sunday Schools connected or unconnected with the Sunday School Union are invited to send representatives.

Application for Tickets to be made to the Secretaries of the

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The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th January, 1874, to the 19th of February, 1874, inclusive :—

Legacy of Late John White, Esq. (less duty) . . . . . £325 0s. 0d.

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Airey, Miss	1	0	0
Austin, Miss	1	1	0
Alexander, Sir J. W., Bart.	10	0	0
Balmain, Col. H.	1	1	0
Bozer, Mrs. Charles	1	0	0
Brandt, Miss	1	1	0
Baring, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Berry, Rev. W.	0	10	6
Buffett, Miss	0	10	0
Bennett, Miss	1	5	0
Bissett, M. G. F., Esq.	1	0	0
Boobbyer, Miss	1	10	0
Boobbyer, Miss L. L.	1	10	0
Brown, Mr. William	1	17	0
Brown, per Miss—			
Brown, The Misses	0	10	0
Brown, Miss M.	0	5	0
Still, Mrs.	0	2	6
Church, Miss	0	5	0
Brown, Miss A. W.	3	14	0
Brooke, John, Esq.	1	0	0
Brooke, Rev. R.	2	2	0
Brooke, Miss	1	0	0
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Bockett, Miss C.	0	10	6
Cox, E. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Cox, Mrs.	1	1	0
Cox, J. H. M., Esq.	1	0	0
Cox, H. W. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Cox, Miss J.	0	5	0
Cox, Miss L.	0	5	0
Cox, Miss M.	0	5	0
Hopkins, Mrs. A.	0	10	6
Mitchell, Miss	0	1	0
Paskin, Miss	0	1	0
Paskin, Miss E.	0	2	0
Smith, Mrs. Bruce	0	10	6
Clarke, R. J., Esq.	0	10	0
Clarke, Mrs.	0	10	0
Courthorpe, G. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Clutterbuck, Mrs.	2	2	0
Comper, H., Esq.	5	5	0
Cunliffe, John, Esq.	21	0	0
Caulfield, Mrs.	1	0	0
Dalton, per Miss E.—			
N. H.	1	1	3
Ditmas, per Mrs.—			
Mr. and Mrs. Peale	3	3	0
Late Miss Moore	0	5	0
Mr. Carter (Richmond)	0	5	0
Mrs. Clunie (Richmond)	0	5	0
Maria's Box	0	6	9
Shaftesbury Violet's Box	0	13	5
Dixon, Henry, Esq.	2	2	0
Dillwyn, Mrs.	1	1	0
Ellis, S., Esq.	2	2	0
Enderby, Miss	1	0	0
Fawcett, H. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Fowler, J. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Farquhar, H. M., Esq.	5	0	0
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Francis, Mr. Henry	1	1	0
Friend, A., per Mrs. Reade	0	2	6
Fane, Mrs.	1	1	0
Grant, R., Esq.	2	2	0
Grant, Mrs.	1	1	0
Gripper, F., Esq.	3	3	0
Gore, Hon. Mrs.	1	1	0
Gaddesden, A. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Gomonde, Mrs.	10	0	0
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Griffin, Miss	1	0	0
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Jesborough, Colonel	1	0	0
Keysell, Miss J. M.	0	10	0
Lowe, Miss	2	0	0
Mackenzie, Mrs.	2	2	0
Marris, Mrs.	0	10	6
Martin, Dowager Lady	23	0	0
Merrieless, A., Esq.	1	1	0
McAll, Mrs.	5	0	0
Mackness, Mrs.	0	7	6
Maggs, Mrs.	1	1	0
Morris, Henry, Esq.	10	0	0
Northbrook, Lord	1	2	0
Noble, Mrs.	1	0	0
North, Major R.	1	0	0
Ogilvie, Mr.	1	1	0
Oldham, Mr.	1	1	0
Oslick, Mrs. N. Evon	1	0	0
Penoyre, Mrs.	1	0	0
Pakenham, Admiral	10	0	0
Porter, The Misses	1	0	0
Port, Mrs.	2	0	0
Prince, Mrs.	10	0	0
Prior, Miss	1	10	0
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Pidcock, George, Esq.	5	0	0
Pasmore, Miss	1	1	0
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S. L.	3	0	0
Strong, Miss A.	1	1	0
Seymour, H. H., Esq.	5	5	0
Stopford, Admiral R. J.	1	0	0
Tomkinson, Thomas, Esq.	15	0	0
Trevelyan, Sir C.	5	0	0
Waldegrave, Frances Countess of	2	2	0
Windle, Miss J.	1	0	0
Whichcote, Mrs. Francis	3	0	0
Williams, Miss A. R. (coll.)	3	0	0
Wing, Mrs.	5	0	0
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Porter, Misses	1	0	0
Pasmore, Miss	1	1	0
East Greenwich.			
Enderby, Miss	1	0	0
Girls' Refuge.			
Hughes, The Misses	0	5	0
Night Refuge.			
Hughes, The Misses	0	10	6
Griffin, Miss	0	5	0
York Mews.			
Hughes, The Misses	0	5	0
Little Saffron Hill Dinner Fund.			
Hughes, The Misses	0	5	0
C.	0	5	0
Goff, The Misses	1	0	0
Burcss Street.			
Stock, Mrs.	1	1	0
Field Lane.			
Pasmore, Miss	1	1	0
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Martin, Dow. Lady	2	0	0
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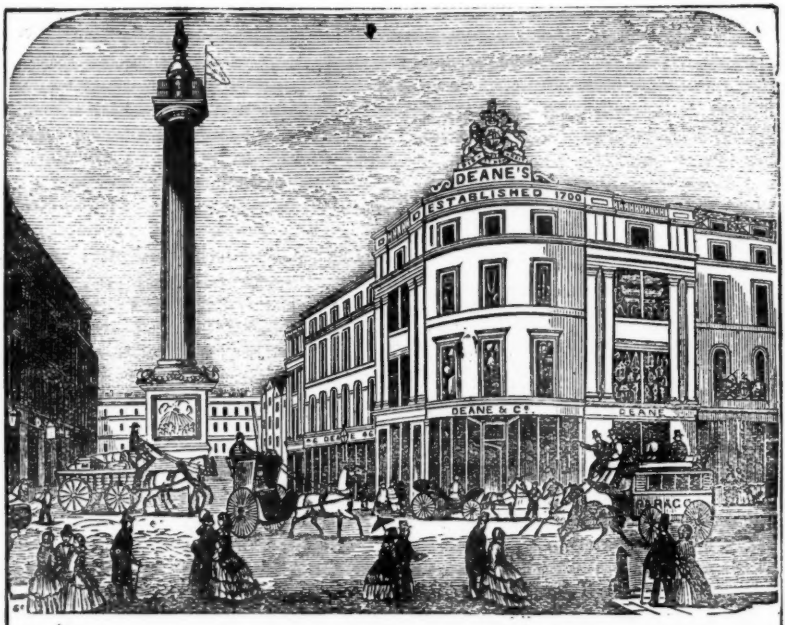

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